**Electoral reforms**

548. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the question of electoral reforms which have become long over due; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The proposals made by the Election Commission for electoral reforms are still in the various stages of consideration, having regard to their complexity and sensitivity. As already mentioned Government propose to consult political parties before taking a final decision.

**Appointment of Chief Executives in Public Sector Undertakings**

549. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief Executives in 14 Public Sector Undertakings have not been appointed for the last one to two years and if so, what are the reasons for the delay in making such appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY ( PROF. K. K. TEWARY): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Cement industry**

550. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the critical phase through which the cement industry in the country is passing during the last few years;

(b) if so, what is the comparative percentage of rise in the production cost and decline in the output of cement during the last three years, year-wise and what are the major constraints being faced by the industry; and

(c) what are the details of the relief if any, contemplated by Government to tide over the crisis in the cement industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Representations have been received from the Cement Manufacturers' Association about the difficulties faced by new units for some time past.

(b) According to the findings of BICP, the average cost of production of cement of 1956 cement units for the year 1982-83 and 1983-84 was Rs. 417/- and 496/- per tonne respectively. Hence, the precentage increase during 1983-84 in relation to the cost 1982-83 was 18.9. No further study on this has, however, been conducted.

As regards the output of cement, it may be mentioned that there has been no decline in the production. On the contrary, there has been substantial increase in production. The production during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 had been 30.19 million tonnes, 33.13 million tonnes and 36.00 million tonnes (expected) respectively.

The major constraints being faced by cement industry relate to power cuts in major cement producing states particularly Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu, inadequate availability of coal of desired quality and unduly long period taken by some of the new units in stabilising their production.

(c) Following reliefs have already been given by the Government to help the cement industry:

(i) Levy obligation of all cement units has been reduced by 10 per cent with effect from 15-12-86.